

Thematic Essay Grading Criteria

Thesis	Demonstrates Understanding of the Complexity of topic	Organization	Supports Thesis with relevant info	Demonstrates insightful and critical analysis	Score
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> +	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> +	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> +	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> +	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> +	1-9
Sophisticated	Sophisticated	Excellent	Substantial	Insightful & critical	
Adequate	Adequate	Good	Adequate	Limited analysis	
Simplistic	Simplistic	Fair	Simplistic	Little/no analysis	
Confused	Confused	Poor	Confused		

91-100%	8-9	Strong Essay	Sophisticated thesis Demonstrates understanding of the complexity of the topic Each paragraph has topic sentence reflecting thesis Support thesis with substantial evidence Demonstrates insightful and critical analysis – more than just a regurgitation of ideas of others
76-90%	6-7	Good Essay	Clear, well-developed sophisticated thesis Well organized Logical organization with topic sentence for each paragraph Supports thesis with specific evidence Answers question but does not demonstrate outstanding insight or critical analysis
66-75%	4-5	Mixed Essays	Contains a thesis, the one that is superficial or simplistic Responds to the question unevenly May contain errors, either factual or interpretive
<65%	3-2	Weak essays	Thesis is confused, absent, or merely restates the question Misconstrues the question Partial but inadequate response to the question – omits major tasks May contain factual errors May contain vague or irrelevant information Contains minimal relevant supporting evidence – few specific facts
	1-0	Poor Essays	No thesis or one that does not address the topic Show inadequate or inaccurate understanding of the question Includes numerous factual errors, both major and minor